

Message Text

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USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

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FROM AG ATTACHE

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR EEC

SUBJ: NFDM MIXING REGULATIONS

1. DESPITE OPPOSITION FROM VIRTUALLY ALL IRISH AGRICULTURAL AND FEED INDUSTRY INTERESTS TO REF. PROPOSALS OR ANYTHING SIMILAR REQUIRING COMPULSORY INCLUSION OF NFDM IN RATIONS, AG.MIN. CLINTON HAS EXPRESSED HIMSELF IN FAVOR OF THE PROPOSALS.

2. PREDICTABLY, FEED MANUFACTURERS OBJECT BECAUSE COSTS OF THEIR PRODUCTS WILL RISE, NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF HIGHER PRICE OF MILK POWDER AS FEED INGREDIENT, BUT BECAUSE OF IMPOSITION OF LEVY ON SOY-BEANS, EVEN IF LEVY CAN BE CLAIMED BACK LATER, WILL RAISE PRICES OF OTHER PROTEIN FEEDS IN SYMPATHY. ALSO, THEY SAY LEGISLATION IS COMPLEX, BURDENSOME AND THAT PROBLEM OF SURPLUS SHOULD BE TREATED AT SOURCE.

3. HOWEVER, FEED MANUFACTURERS ARE MORE HAPPY WITH LATEST PROPOSALS AND ARE BECOMING RESIGNED TO FACT THAT SOME SUCH SCHEME WILL BE FORCED UPON THEM. EXPECTED EFFECT OF CURRENT PROPOSALS WOULD BE TO INCREASE COMPOUND FEED PRICES BY 3.00 POUNDS TO 4.00 POUNDS PER METRIC TON.

4. THE SEMI-STATE PIGS AND BACON COMMISSION (PBC) IS PROBABLY STRONGEST OPPONENT OF REF. MEASURES. NOT ONLY WILL HOG PRODUCERS

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HAVE TO BEAR HIGHER FEED COSTS BUT, PBC SAY, IRISH COMPETITIVENESS

VIS-A-VIS OTHER EC COUNTRIES WILL BE REDUCED. THIS IS BECAUSE MOST OTHER EC COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY DENMARK AND U.J., USE MUCH HIGHER PROPORTION OF FEED MIXED ON THE FARM. PBC SAY IT WILL BE ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO EFFECTIVELY POLICE MIXING REGULATIONS AT FARM LEVEL. RESULT WILL BE LOWER FEED COSTS FOR DANISH AND U.K. PRODUCERS.

5. IRISH FARMER ORGANIZATIONS FOLLOW COPA VIEW ON MIXING REGULATIONS. BECAUSE OF LARGE NUMBER OF DAIRY FARMERS HERE, THEIR OPPOSITION TO MIXING REGULATION IS NOT SO STRONGLY WORDED AS THAT OF PBC AND FEED MANUFACTURERS. HOWEVER, EVEN DAIRY ORGANIZATIONS HAVE EXPRESSED LITTLE ENTHUSIASM FOR PROPOSED REGULATION. CURLEY

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